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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE
OF THE ORGANIZATION

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Note by the Secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 4 (e) of its resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to consider proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council. In this connection, it should be recalled that, on the same date, the Assembly also adopted resolution 50/55, in which it requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 31 May 1996, written comments on the future of the Trusteeship Council, and to submit to the Assembly, as early as possible and before the end of its fiftieth session, for appropriate consideration, a report containing comments made by Member States on the subject.

2. By a note dated 27 December 1995, the Secretary-General, in accordance with the latter resolution, invited Member States to submit by 31 May 1996 written comments for inclusion in the report.

3. As at 12 February 1996, two replies had been received from the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Malaysia. These replies are circulated herewith for the information of the Special Committee.

4. Any additional replies which might be received before the end of the Special Committee's session will be circulated as addenda to the present document.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

A. Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]

[25 January 1996]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda through its Permanent Mission wishes to state that it has carefully studied the report of the Sixth Committee (A/50/646), and presently can see no reason why the Trusteeship Council should be retained.

Antigua and Barbuda takes this view even though in its interventions in the First Committee in matters pertaining to Antarctica, it is in the forefront of countries wishing to preserve mankind's common heritage, and has been most active in matters pertaining to the environment.

But, all of the concerns reflected in document A/50/646 should be handled by the Second Committee. The said Committee is adequate to deal with matters mentioned in the quoted report and, at a time of severe financial constraints, there should be efforts made at contraction with increased efficiency and unnecessary duplication, rather than on expansion which need not come into existence.

Though it may be argued that the Trusteeship Council already exists, we are discussing assigning to it new functions which already have their rightful place in an existing committee; hence our reference to expansion, or, if preferred, unnecessary duplication.

B. Malaysia

[Original: English]

[7 February 1996]

In view of the fact that the Trusteeship Council has fulfilled the mandate that had been entrusted to it, Malaysia is of the view that it should be disbanded.